

Minutes  
Human Services Commission  
Thursday, May 8, 2003  
5:00 P.M.  
City Hall - Kiva  
3939 Drinkwater Boulevard  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Present: Vice-Chair Bachmann, Commissioners Bilsens, Coudroglou and Resnick

Absent: Chairwoman Fausel and Commissioners Bitenc and Broshar

Staff Present: Connie James, Donna Brower, Jan Cameron, Valerie Kime Trujillo, Tim Miluk, and Amy Pendleton

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-chair Bachmann called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 24, 2003 MEETING

Commissioner Resnick moved for approval of the April 24, 2003 meeting minutes; Commissioner Coudroglou seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

SENIOR ISSUES

Tim Miluk, Human Services Manager – Civic Center Senior Center, highlighted senior issues and read the Mayoral proclamation, which is attached to these minutes. He then introduced the panel of presenters, who discussed senior issues and trends.

POWER OF ATTORNEY/SENIOR FRAUD ISSUES

Kathryn Leonard from the Attorney General's office updated the commission on power of attorney information.

Commissioner Resnick asked if the power of attorney and healthcare forms are available at the senior centers. Mr. Miluk said yes and that the senior centers have mini health fairs where staff helps seniors fill the forms out.

LIFE CARE PLANNING

Barbara Volk-Craft from Hospice of the Valley updated the commission on Healthcare Decisions, a program that deals with life care planning issues, such as medical power of attorney and living wills.

As the video that Barbara wanted to show had technical difficulties, Vice-Chair Bachmann asked when the video could be seen on City Cable 11. Mr. Miluk said that the video could be seen on Senior Spotlight on Wednesday nights at 6:30 PM.

Commissioner Bilsens asked if the organization was a non-profit or a fee for service. Ms. Volk-Craft said that the organization was a non-profit and the Healthcare Decisions program is a project that provides services through Hospice of the Valley. The project is funded through grants and by donations from hospitals throughout the state.

ORGAN DONATION

Stacy Underwood, Community Relations Supervisor, from the Donor Network of Arizona updated the commission on organ donation and the affect one senior can have through organ donation.

Commissioner Bilsens asked if the website address could be given. Ms. Underwood said that people can register to be a organ donor at [www.azdonorregistry.org](http://www.azdonorregistry.org), or people can call 602-222-2200 and the needed forms and information will be mailed to them.

Mr. Miluk asked Ms. Underwood to elaborate on the criteria for organ donation, based upon the age and condition of the body. Ms. Underwood said that you are never too young or too old to be a donor – medical technology has made great advances and organs people from any age can donate.

### TRANSPORTATION

Michelle Korf, from the City of Scottsdale Transportation Department updated the commission on transportation and the issues faced by seniors and people with disabilities.

Vice-chair Bachmann asked how this change in transportation affects citizens. Ms. Korf said that they expect that they will see a reduction in ridership; affecting students, those who work to commute, and to a certain extent, seniors. However she said they believe they have taken the bite away from the impact to seniors.

### BENEFITS ASSISTANCE

Ann Biseglia from Area Agency on Aging updated the commission on changes and information relating to benefits assistance for seniors.

Vice-chair Bachmann asked if Ms. Biseglia had any numbers on those that are uninsured. Ms. Biseglia said she didn't have specific numbers but the entire population in the nation has grown from 27 to 44 million uninsured.

Commissioner Bilsens asked for comments from Ms. Biseglia on the governor's prescription plan in Arizona. Ms. Biseglia said that the governor and her staff are working with a group called RX solutions right now, and there is a phone number they can call to get an application in order to discount their prescription drugs from 20 to 55%, depending on the drug and where you buy it. She added that there is a list of specific pharmacies that seniors can go to. She added that the program is a small step, but it will advantage the middle class, not those who are poor – there are those that it will help, but it is not the answer. Commissioner Bilsens asked what Ms. Biseglia thinks the answer is. Ms. Biseglia said that eventually Congress will do something, for example a decision has been made that there will be prescription drugs covered with Medicare, but there will always be cost sharing and they see a fairly significant political debate in the future.

### PRESCRIPTIONS

Kirby Bessant from Advance PCS updated the commission on the trends/issues and information relating to prescriptions and the senior population.

Commissioner Bilsens asked why Mr. Bessant thinks the governor chose to go with the Salt Lake City program as opposed to an in state business. Mr. Bessant said he could only relate what his company was told: there was one provision, that the company had to take financial liability if a pharmacy caused harm to a patient, and they weren't willing to do that. He added that the Salt Lake City program is pharmacy based and could take on the liability provision. He added that the Salt Lake City program's brand pricing was bit better, but it is unclear if those brands were generic or name brand. He said that the governor's program is not available in every county in the state.

Mr. Miluk thanked the presenters and added that Human Services has a community partner – Senior LINKS – that provided a grant to create a Resource Guide for seniors and that that guide is now available.

#### STAFF AND COMMISSION UPDATES

Connie James, Human Services Director, informed the commission about the Ready to Learn Steering Committee meeting that had been held that afternoon. She said that there were 40 members from the community, including the Superintendent of the Scottsdale School District, who attended and were ready to pick up the charge for the Ready to Learn program. She said she has a video that was done by the Communication and Public Affairs Department for the Scottsdale program, and that she will show that to the commission at a later time. She added that Scottsdale is the first municipality to endorse the Ready to Learn Program and that the National League of Cities is going forward with the program as well. She reminded the commission that the next meeting will be on May 29, not the 22 at Via Linda Senior Center.

Mr. Miluk gave the following Staff Updates: **Civic Center Senior Center** - this may have been the smoothest, friendliest tax season ever for our team. Kudos to our Human Services Representative, Amirra Mazza. Entertainment Extravaganza! This was a Vaudeville/talent show type of extravaganza held on April 4. We partnered with the lunch program on that day for a special picnic lunch prior to the extravaganza. The show was phenomenal. A tape of the extravaganza is available for viewing at the center. The May 2 Annual Senior Prom with Saguaro High School students was a great success. Karaoke nights at senior center will be offered on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays of the month from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

**Community Assistance Office** - The City Council, at their April 15 City Council Meeting, approved the Human Services Commission's FY 2003/04 funding recommendations for CDBG, HOME, General Fund and Scottsdale Cares. The Council also approved the CDBG Annual Action Plan and gave authorization for the Mayor to execute the Foundation for Senior Living Emergency Repair Contract prior to July 1, 2003. The Emergency Repair contract will be executed by May 1 to insure funds are available for the program through the end of the fiscal year. As of May 1, 2003, 617 individuals and families are receiving housing assistance from the Section 8 Program representing an increase of 4.5% (27 families) from last year's May 2002 total of 590 families. There are 190 clients currently on the Waiting List; 30 applicants will be pulled from the Waitlist in June 2003. As of May 2003, 15 Residential Rehabilitations were completed with 11 rehabs under construction. In addition, over 50 Emergency Rehabilitations have been completed assisting Scottsdale residents. As of May 2003, 29 applicants are on the Housing Rehabilitation wait list, with an approximate wait of 8 to 12 months. **Paiute Neighborhood Center** - The neighborhood clean up conducted on Saturday, April 12, 2003, was very successful with approximately 35 individuals. The Mayor and City Council trolley arrived at about 10:00 am. The Paiute Neighborhood Center staff, Neighborhood Park staff, Boys and Girls Club staff, volunteers, mothers and children collaborated to make this a successful project. The Mayor and City Council had words of encouragement for everyone. The Paiute After-School Program staff implemented a new incentive activity to encourage positive behavior and instill the Six Pillars of Character: responsibility, citizenship, caring, fairness, respect and trustworthiness. Five program participants are recognized for following the program rules, understanding and enforcing the Six Pillars of Character, as well as, for their academics through the tutoring program. On April 18, 200 guests attended the Partners for Paiute 9th Anniversary Celebration Breakfast at the Chaparral Suites. The event provides information regarding the center's programs and gives the members of the Partners for Paiute Neighborhood Center a chance to thank and recognize their donors for their support. Without their support, many of the programs for youth and adults could not be provided at the center. The Paiute After-School Programs were highlighted at the breakfast with awards given to Dulce Montes, age 11 and Maricela Barrera, age 9. The youth were given plaques and gift certificates for their artwork. The Paiute Neighborhood Center Employee of the Year was presented to Taryn Lopez from Camp Fire, USA. She was honored with a plaque and a gift certificate to Ruth's Chris Steakhouse. **Via Linda Senior Center** - Preliminary meetings were held with the Scottsdale Garden Club on partnering for the installation of a healing garden on the undeveloped area of the landscape NW of the Via Linda Center. Spring classes 2003 began the week of April 7 with 715 registered participants; this represents a 21% increase in class registrants over Spring 2002. Support group meetings continue to be

well attended: Anxiety; Alzheimer's Caregivers; Arthritis; Multiple Sclerosis; Fibromyalgia; Grief; Low Vision; Stroke Support. New groups at the center include: Pulmonary Fibrosis and a group for those recently divorced and separated. **Vista del Camino** - Yola Ghammashi, Human Services Specialist, was the recipient of the City of Scottsdale Diversity Advisory Committee's "Community Touch" award. Yola was recognized for her work with the Yaqui community and for her role in the development of the book about the Scottsdale Penjamo Yaqui community. The McCormick Ranch Women's Association recently awarded Vista del Camino Back to School Program \$700. Columbia Foundation provided a \$4,000 grant to be used for prescription assistance to clients over the age of 55 at Vista and Civic Center and Via Linda Senior Centers. Vista had a great turnout for our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party. Thanks to all who helped make the event a success. **Youth and Family Services** - On Saturday, April 26, 105 youth, aged 14 through 17, attended a half-day Job Skills seminar at the Scottsdale Library. The training was provided by Youth Services staff, and included information on customer service, interviewing skills, and business ethics. Some of the activities included a "Job Skills Jeopardy", mock interviews, and assistance with developing a personal portfolio. This training was provided for teens that volunteer at the library. On May 5, Youth Services staff provided post-academy training to new police officers and police aides, to acquaint them with juvenile proceedings and services offered through the Human Services division. May 15 marks the last meeting of the year for the Scottsdale Mayor's Youth Council. Youth Council members will be meeting with Mayor Mary Manross and recap this year's event.

#### OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Vice-Chair Bachmann made an open call to the public for comments/questions/announcements or other business. There were no replies.

Commissioner Resnick asked how the Human Services Division had been affected by the budget crisis. Ms. James said that, to date, \$461,000 was cut in the Human Services budget, which is about 10%, and they are still not done. She added that the majority of things taken away does not relate to having to close center. She said that City Council will have another hearing next week, on May 19, where they will decide on the cap and then make the final decision on June 2.

#### ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be brought before the commission, Vice-Chair Bachmann asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Resnick moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Bilsens seconded. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Beth Bossert, Recording Secretary.

Meets established criteria.

Connie James  
Director, Human Services